

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/649,097

Attorney Docket No. Q60517
Art Unit 2635

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A vehicle key system for verifying identity of fingerprint information about a user's fingerprint and for controlling pieces of equipment in a vehicle according to a verification result, said system comprising:

a transmitter including a fingerprint information capturing means for capturing fingerprint information from a user's fingerprint, an identifier storage means for storing an identifier specific to said transmitter, and a transmitting means for transmitting only the fingerprint information captured by said fingerprint information capturing means, only a system-specific identifier previously stored in said identifier storage means, or both the fingerprint information and the system-specific identifier; and

a receiver disposed in the vehicle, including a receiving means for receiving the fingerprint information and the identifier transmitted from said transmitting means of said transmitter,

a verification means for verifying the received fingerprint information against a list of pieces of previously stored fingerprint information, and for verifying the received identifier against a previously stored identifier, said verification means including feature verification means for verifying the features extracted from the fingerprint information received from said transmitter against features of an authorized user stored by said receiver; an identifier verification means for verifying the specific identifier received from said transmitter and the

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specific identifier stored by said receiver, and comprehensively determining means for
determining whether or not a user manipulating said transmitter is an authorized user and
whether or not the manipulation is directed toward the vehicle corresponding to said transmitter;
and

a control means for controlling said pieces of equipment in the vehicle according to
verification results from said verification means.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein
said control means comprising engine control means for controlling an engine according to the
verification result from said receiver, door control means for controlling a lock of doors
according to the verification results from said receiver, and a trunk control means for controlling
a lock of a trunk according to the verification result of the receiver.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The vehicle key system according to Claim 1, wherein
said receiver further comprising:

a first operation means for selecting only the fingerprint information, only the identifier
or the both of them according to a manipulation performed by a user,

a first verification data-selection state storage means for storing the verification data-
selection state indicating a selection state of the verification data whose value is set by said first
operation means and a selection state of the verification data received by said transmitter, and

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a display means for displaying which information to be verified is selected from the fingerprint information or the identifier selected.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The vehicle key system according to Claim 4, wherein said transmitter further comprising:

a second operation means for selecting only the fingerprint information, only the identifier or the both of them according to a manipulation performed by a user, and

a second verification data-selection state storage means for storing the verification data-selection state indicating a selection state of the verification data whose value is set by said first operation means and a selection state of the verification data received by said transmitter.

Claims 6 and 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The vehicle key system according to Claim 4, wherein an operation unit intended for operating a piece of equipment disposed in said vehicle also serves as said first operation means.

Claim 9 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein said equipment is a navigation device.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The vehicle key system according to Claim 4, wherein a pedal disposed in said vehicle also serves as said first operation means.

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Claim 11 (currently amended): The vehicle system according to claim 21, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claim 12 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 3, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claim 13 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 4, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claim 14 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 5, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claims 15 and 16 (canceled).

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Claim 17 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 8, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claim 18 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 9, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.

Claim 19 (original): The vehicle key system according to Claim 10, wherein if said verification means previously stores no fingerprint information, when the received information includes the system-specific identifier, said verification means performs only the verification of the received identifier against a previously stored identifier.